

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for calculating a cost of receiving multicast data from a selected multicast session, a multicast network including at least one multicast service, each multicast service including at least one multicast session, comprising:
receiving a request to establish a connection to the selected multicast session, the request
including a start time for the connection and an end time for the connection;
storing the start time for the connection and the end time for the connection; and
after termination of the connection, calculating the cost of receiving the multicast data,
wherein the multicast network utilizes a multicast protocol, and
wherein when a selected multicast service that includes the selected multicast session
receives a multicast message from a sender, the multicast protocol sends the
multicast message to said at least one multicast session associated with the
selected multicast service.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a subsequent request to extend the connection, the subsequent request
specifying a new end time for the connection; and
storing the new end time for the connection.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a subsequent request to terminate the connection, the subsequent request
specifying a new end time that precedes the end time for the connection; and

- storing the new end time for the connection.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the storing of the start time for the connection and the end time for the connection is to a database.
 5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the calculating of the cost further comprises:
computing a charge for receiving the multicast data;
storing the charge; and
computing the cost by multiplying the charge by a fee for the multicast service associated with the selected multicast session.
 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the computing of the charge further comprises:
computing an elapsed connection time by subtracting the start time for the connection from the end time for the connection.
 7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the computing of the charge further comprises:
computing a volume of data received over the connection from the start time for the connection to the end time for the connection.
 8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the storing of the charge is to a database.
 9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein time is divided into evenly spaced time slots, and wherein the start time for the connection the end time for the connection can only

occur at the end of a time slot.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the end time for the connection in the request is specified as a discrete number of time slots.
11. (Previously Presented) A system for calculating a cost of receiving multicast data from a selected multicast session, a multicast network including at least one multicast service, each multicast service including at least one multicast session, comprising:
 - a memory device; and
 - a processor disposed in communication with the memory device, the processor configured to:
 - receive a request to establish a connection to the selected multicast session, the request including a start time for the connection and an end time for the connection;
 - store the start time for the connection and the end time for the connection; and
 - after termination of the connection, calculate the cost of receiving the multicast data,wherein the multicast network utilizes a multicast protocol, and
wherein when a selected multicast service that includes the selected multicast session receives a multicast message from a sender, the multicast protocol sends the multicast message to said at least one multicast session associated with the selected multicast service.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the processor is further configured to:
receive a subsequent request to extend the connection, the subsequent request specifying
a new end time for the connection; and
store the new end time for the connection.
13. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the processor is further configured to:
receive a subsequent request to terminate the connection, the subsequent request
specifying a new end time that precedes the end time for the connection; and
store the new end time for the connection.
14. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the processor stores the start time for the
connection and the end time for the connection to a database.
15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein to calculate the cost, the
processor is further configured to:
compute a charge for receiving the multicast data;
store the charge; and
compute the cost by multiplying the charge by a fee for the multicast service associated
with the selected multicast session.
16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein to compute the charge, the processor is
further configured to:
compute an elapsed connection time by subtracting the start time for the connection from
the end time for the connection.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein to compute the charge, the processor is further configured to:
compute a volume of data received over the connection from the start time for the connection to the end time for the connection.
18. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the processor stores the charge to a database.
19. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein time is divided into evenly spaced time slots, and wherein the start time for the connection the end time for the connection can only occur at the end of a time slot.
20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the end time for the connection in the request is specified as a discrete number of time slots.
21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a memory with a computer readable useable medium containing having computer program logic recorded thereon and at least one processor in communication with said memory executing the computer program logic for calculating a cost of receiving multicast data from a selected multicast session, a multicast network including at least one multicast service, each multicast service including at least one multicast session, the computer program logic comprising:
program code for receiving a request to establish a connection to the selected multicast session, the request including a start time for the connection and an end time for the connection;
program code for storing the start time for the connection and the end time for the

- connection; and
- after termination of the connection, program code for calculating the cost of receiving the multicast data,
- wherein the multicast network utilizes a multicast protocol, and
- wherein when a selected multicast service that includes the selected multicast session receives a multicast message from a sender, the multicast protocol sends the multicast message to said at least one multicast session associated with the selected multicast service.
22. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 21, the computer program logic further comprising:
- program code for receiving a subsequent request to extend the connection, the subsequent request specifying a new end time for the connection; and
- program code for storing the new end time for the connection.
23. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 21, the computer program logic further comprising:
- program code for receiving a subsequent request to terminate the connection, the subsequent request specifying a new end time that precedes the end time for the connection; and
- program code for storing the new end time for the connection.
24. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the storing of the start time for the connection and the end time for the connection is to a database.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the program code for calculating the cost further comprises:
- program code for computing a charge for receiving the multicast data;
 - program code for storing the charge; and
 - program code for computing the cost by multiplying the charge by a fee for the multicast service associated with the selected multicast session.
26. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the program code for computing the charge further comprises:
- program code for computing an elapsed connection time by subtracting the start time for the connection from the end time for the connection.
27. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the program code for computing the charge further comprises:
- program code for computing a volume of data received over the connection from the start time for the connection to the end time for the connection.
28. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the storing of the charge is to a database.
29. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein time is divided into evenly spaced time slots, and wherein the start time for the connection the end time for the connection can only occur at the end of a time slot.
30. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the end time for the connection in the request is specified as a discrete number of time slots.

31. (Previously Presented) A system for calculating a cost of receiving multicast data from a selected multicast session, a multicast network including at least one multicast service, each multicast service including at least one multicast session, comprising:
- a collection device comprising:
- a collection memory device; and
 - a collection processor disposed in communication with the collection memory device, the collection processor configured to:
 - receive a request to establish a connection to the selected multicast session, the request including a start time for the connection and an end time for the connection;
 - store the start time for the connection and the end time for the connection;
 - and
 - after termination of the connection, calculate the cost of receiving the multicast data,
 - wherein the multicast network utilizes a multicast protocol, and
 - wherein when a selected multicast service that includes the selected multicast session receives a multicast message from a sender, the multicast protocol sends the multicast message to said at least one multicast session associated with the selected multicast service;
 - and
- an interface device comprising:
- an interface memory device; and
 - an interface processor disposed in communication with the interface memory

device, the interface processor configured to:
configure the collection device; and
display the cost of receiving the multicast data.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the collection processor is further configured to:
receive a subsequent request to extend the connection that specifies a new end time for
the connection; and
store the new end time for the connection
33. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the collection processor is further configured to:
receive a subsequent request to terminate the connection that specifies a new end time for
the connection; and
store the new end time for the connection.
34. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the collection processor stores the start time
for the connection and the end time for the connection to a database.
35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, wherein to calculate the cost, the
collection processor is further configured to:
compute a charge for receiving the multicast data;
store the charge; and
compute the cost by multiplying the charge by a fee for the multicast service associated
with the selected multicast session.

36. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein to compute the charge, the collection processor is further configured to:
compute an elapsed connection time by subtracting the start time for the connection from the end time for the connection.
37. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein to compute the charge, the collection processor is further configured to:
compute a volume of data received over the connection from the start time for the connection to the end time for the connection.
38. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein the collection processor stores the charge to a database.
39. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein time is divided into evenly spaced time slots, and wherein the start time for the connection the end time for the connection can only occur at the end of a time slot.
40. (Original) The system of claim 39, wherein the end time for the connection in the request is specified as a discrete number of time slots.
41. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a memory with a computer readable useable medium containing ~~having~~ computer program logic recorded thereon and at least one processor in communication with said memory executing the computer program logic for calculating a cost of receiving multicast data from a selected multicast session, a multicast network including at least one multicast service, each multicast service including at least one multicast session, the computer program logic

comprising:

program code for sending a request to establish a connection to the selected multicast session, the request including a start time for the connection and an end time for the connection;

program code for sending a first subsequent request after the request, the first subsequent request including a new end time for the connection, the new end time being later than the end time; and

program code for sending a second subsequent request after the first subsequent request, the second subsequent request including an earlier end time for the connection, the earlier end time after the end time and before the new end time,

wherein the multicast network utilizes a multicast protocol, and

wherein when a selected multicast service that includes the selected multicast session receives a multicast message from a sender, the multicast protocol sends the multicast message to said at least one multicast session associated with the selected multicast service.

42. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 41, the computer program logic further comprising:

program code for determining a request time interval;

wherein sending the request, sending the first subsequent request, and sending the second subsequent request only occur at a time that is a multiple of the request time interval from the start time.